

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
COLORADO RIVER BASIN REGION**

ORDER NO. 00-138

WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
COACHELLA SANITARY DISTRICT, OWNER/OPERATOR  
FOR  
IRRIGATION OF PASTURELANDS AND FIELDS  
Coachella - Riverside County

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region finds that:

1. On August 10, 2000, Coachella Sanitary District (hereinafter referred to as the discharger), 1515 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Coachella, California 92236, submitted an application to update its Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) Order for irrigation of pasturelands and fields located adjacent to its wastewater treatment facility.
2. The discharger owns and operates a wastewater collection, treatment and disposal system and provides a sewerage service to the City of Coachella. The treatment plant consists of a 1.5 million-gallons-per-day (MGD) activated sludge treatment train and a 0.9 MGD oxidation pond treatment train, which results in a total design capacity of the treatment plant of 2.4 MGD. Annual average flow to the facility is approximately 1.4 MGD. Discharge of the wastewater is either to the receiving water or to irrigation of nearby pasturelands and fields.
3. Annual average discharge to the receiving waters is 1.0 MGD and is regulated under Board Order No. 00-032, NPDES No. CA0104493.
4. Secondary treated effluent from the activated sludge and the oxidation pond systems are designed either to be used for irrigation of nearby pasturelands and fields, or as permitted by Board Order No. 00-032 for discharge to receiving waters. The discharge of secondary treated effluent for irrigation shall not exceed the treatment capacity of the activated sludge treatment and/or oxidation pond systems. The discharger presently discharges a peak average daily flow of 0.4 MGD for irrigation.
5. Undisinfected secondary treated effluent is used for irrigation of fodder, fiber and seed crops and for irrigation of pasturelands used by non-milking animals. The location of the fields and pasturelands are as follows:

<u>Parcel No.</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Location</u>
a. 763-320-029	19.3 ac.±	NW ¼ NW¼ of Section 15, T6S, R8E, SBB&M
TOTAL	19.3 ac.±	of Irrigated Fields and Pasturelands

All fields and pasturelands are within the boundary of the discharger's facility, and the discharger is in control of wastewater irrigation.

6. There are no domestic wells within 500 feet of the discharge facilities described in Finding No. 2.

7. The California Department of Health Services has established statewide reclamation criteria in Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 60301, et seq. (hereinafter referred to as Title 22) for the use of recycled water and has developed guidelines for specific uses.
8. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region of California (Basin Plan) was adopted on November 17, 1993, and designates the beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in this Region.
9. The beneficial uses of ground waters in the Coachella Hydrologic Subunit are:
  - a. Municipal and domestic supply (MUN)
  - b. Agricultural supply (AGR)
  - c. Industrial service supply (IND)
10. This discharge has been subject to waste discharge requirements adopted in Board Order No. 90-033.
11. This Board Order updates the waste discharge requirements to comply with the current laws and regulations as set forth in the California Water Code and the California Code of Regulations.
12. In accordance with Section 15301, Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, the issuance of these waste discharge requirements, which govern the operation of an existing facility involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that previously existing, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et. seq.).
13. The Board has notified the discharger and all known interested agencies and persons of its intent to update waste discharge requirements for this discharge and has provided them with an opportunity for a public meeting and an opportunity to submit comments.
14. The Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to this discharge.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Board Order No. 90-033 is rescinded, and in order to meet the provisions contained in Division 7 of the California Water Code and regulations adopted thereunder, the discharger shall comply with the following:

A. Effluent Limitations

1. Representative samples of wastewater discharged for irrigation from treatment systems shall not contain constituents in excess of the limits indicated below. Each treatment system discharging to irrigation shall be monitored separately at locations acceptable to the Regional Board's Executive Officer.

a. Activated Sludge Treatment System

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>30-Day<sup>1</sup> Arithmetic Mean Discharge Rate</u>	<u>7-Day<sup>2</sup> Arithmetic Mean Discharge Rate</u>
20°C BOD <sub>5</sub> <sup>3</sup>	mg/L <sup>4</sup>	30	45
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	30	45

The hydrogen ion (pH) of the effluent shall be maintained within the limits of 6.0 to 9.0.

The discharge flow rate for this system to irrigation shall not exceed a monthly average of 1.5 mgd.

b. Oxidation Pond System

<u>Constituent</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>30-Day Arithmetic Mean Discharge Rate</u>	<u>7-Day Arithmetic Mean Discharge Rate</u>
20°C BOD <sub>5</sub>	mg/L	45	65
Total Suspended Solids	mg/L	45	65

The hydrogen ion (pH) of the effluent shall be maintained within the limits of 6.0 to 9.0.

The discharge flow rate for this system to irrigation shall not exceed a monthly average of 0.9 mgd.

2. The total dissolved solids (TDS) of the secondary treated wastewater used for irrigation shall not exceed the domestic water supply TDS by more than 400 mg/L.

B. Prohibitions

1. The direct discharge of any wastewater from the facility to any surface waters or surface drainage courses is prohibited.
2. Bypass or overflow of untreated or partially treated waste is prohibited.
3. No irrigation with, or impoundment of, undisinfected secondary recycled water shall take place within 150 feet of any domestic water supply well.
4. Discharge of treated wastewater at a location or in a manner different from that described in Findings No. 2, 3, 4 and 5, is prohibited.
5. The discharger shall not accept waste in excess of the design treatment capacity of the disposal system.

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<sup>1</sup> 30-Day Mean - The arithmetic mean of pollutant parameter values of samples collected in a period of 30 consecutive days as specified in the Monitoring and Reporting Program.

<sup>2</sup> 7-Day Mean - The arithmetic mean of pollutant parameter values of samples collected in a period of 7 consecutive days as specified in the Monitoring and Reporting Program.

<sup>3</sup> Biochemical Oxygen Demand

<sup>4</sup> Milligram-per-liter

### C. Discharge Specifications

1. The treatment or disposal of wastes at this facility shall not cause pollution or nuisance as defined in Sections 13050 (l) and (m) of Division 7 of the California Water Code.
2. Public contact with undisinfected wastewater shall be precluded through such means as fences, signs, and other acceptable alternatives. Conspicuous signs shall be posted in a prominent location in each area where non-disinfected wastewater is stored on-site. Each sign or label shall be displayed with the wording "Non-disinfected wastewater - No body contact or drinking" as well as the international warning symbol.
3. The discharger shall abide by the guidelines and criteria for the use of recycled water as developed by the Department of Health Services and established in Title 22, California Code of Regulations, Section 60301.
4. Undisinfected secondary recycled water, wastewater in which the organic matter has been stabilized, is nonputrescible, and contains dissolved oxygen, is limited only for irrigation in the following applications:
  - a. Orchards where the recycled water does not come into contact with the edible portion of the crop;
  - b. Vineyards where the recycled water does not come into contact with the edible portion of the crop;
  - c. Non food-bearing trees (Christmas tree farms are included in this category provided no irrigation with recycled water occurs for a period of 14 days prior to harvesting or allowing access by the general public);
  - d. Fodder and fiber crops and pasture for animal not producing milk for human consumption;
  - e. Seed crops not eaten by humans;
  - f. Food crops that must undergo commercial pathogen-destroying processing before being consumed by humans; and
  - g. Ornamental nursery stock and sod farms provided no irrigation with recycled water occurs for a period of 14 days prior to harvesting, retail sale, or allowing access by the general public.
5. Wastewater used for irrigation shall be confined to land owned or controlled by the discharger.
6. Adequate measures shall be taken to assure that flood or surface water drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render portions of the discharge facilities inoperable.
7. The discharge shall not cause degradation of any beneficial use of surface or ground water.
8. The discharge of wastewater into any drainage channel is prohibited, and any tailwaters resulting from application to land as described in Findings No. 2, 4, and 5, shall not enter Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel or any other drainage channel.
9. Treated or untreated sludge or similar solid waste materials shall be disposed only at locations approved by the Regional Board.

#### D. Provisions

1. The discharger shall comply with "Monitoring and Reporting Program No. 00-138 and future revisions thereto, as specified by the Regional Board's Executive Officer.
2. Prior to any modifications in this facility which would result in material change in the quality or quantity of wastewater treated or discharged, or any material change in the location of discharge, the discharger shall report all pertinent information in writing to the Regional Board and obtain revised requirements before any modifications are implemented.
3. Prior to any change in ownership or management of this operation, the discharger shall transmit a copy of this Board Order to the succeeding owner/operator, and forward a copy of the transmittal letter to the Regional Board.
4. The discharger shall ensure that all site-operating personnel are familiar with the content of this Board Order, and shall maintain a copy of this Board Order at the site.
5. This Board Order does not authorize violation of any federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
6. The discharger shall allow the Regional Board, or an authorized representative, upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:
  - a. Enter upon the premises regulated by this Board Order, or the place where records must be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
  - b. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that shall be kept under the conditions of this Board Order;
  - c. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Board Order; and
  - d. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purpose of assuring compliance with this Board Order or as otherwise authorized by the California Water Code, any substances or parameters at this location.
7. The discharger shall comply with all of the conditions of this Board Order. Any noncompliance with this Board Order constitutes a violation of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and is grounds for enforcement action.
8. The discharger shall, at all times, properly operate and maintain all systems and components of treatment and control, including, but not limited to, sludge use and disposal facilities which are installed or used by the discharger to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Board Order. Proper operation and maintenance includes, but is not limited to, effective performance, adequate process controls, adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup or auxiliary facilities or similar systems when necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this Board Order. All systems both in service and reserved, shall be inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Records shall be kept of the inspection results and maintenance performed and made available to the Regional Board upon demand.

9. The discharger shall report any noncompliance that may endanger human health or the environment. Information shall be provided orally within 24 hours of when the discharger becomes aware of the incident, to the Regional Board office and the Office of Emergency Services. The discharger shall also leave a message on the Regional Board office voice recorder during non-business hours. A written report shall also be provided within five business days of the time the discharger becomes aware of the incident. The written report shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause, the period of noncompliance, the anticipated time to achieve full compliance, and the steps taken or planned, to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. The discharger shall report all intentional or unintentional sewage spills in excess of 1,000 gallons occurring within the facility or collection system to the Regional Board office in accordance with the above time limits.
10. The discharger shall comply with the following:
  - a. Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity.
  - b. The discharger shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this Board Order, and records of all data used to complete the application for this Board Order, for a period of at least five (5) years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application.
  - c. Records of monitoring information shall include:
    1. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
    2. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;
    3. The date(s) analyses were performed;
    4. The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
    5. The analytical techniques or methods used; and
    6. The results of such analyses.
11. Unless otherwise approved by the Regional Board's Executive Officer, all analyses shall be conducted at a laboratory certified for such analyses by the State Department of Health Services. All analyses shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of "Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for Analysis of Pollutants", promulgated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
12. Adequate measures shall be taken to assure that flood or surface drainage waters do not erode or otherwise render portions of the discharge facilities inoperable.
13. The discharger's wastewater treatment plant shall be supervised and operated by persons possessing certification of appropriate grade pursuant to Section 3680, Chapter 4, Division 4, Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations. The discharger shall ensure that all operating personnel are familiar with the contents of this Board Order.
14. The discharger is the responsible party for the waste discharge requirements and the monitoring and reporting program for the facility. The discharger shall comply with all conditions of these waste discharge requirements. Violations may result in enforcement actions, including Regional Board Orders or court orders, requiring corrective action or imposing civil monetary liability or in modification or revocation of these waste discharge requirements by the Regional Board.
15. The discharger shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical monitoring program reports, and

such reports shall be submitted in accordance with the specifications prepared by the Regional Board's Executive Officer. Such specifications are subject to periodic revisions as may be warranted.

16. This Board Order may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by the discharger for a Board Order modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any Board Order condition. Causes for modification include the promulgation of new regulations, modification of land application plans, or modification in sludge use or disposal practices, or adoption of new regulations by the State Board or the Regional Board, including revisions to the Basin Plan.

I, Philip A. Gruenberg, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, on November 8, 2000.

Original signed by/  
Executive Officer